

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 PM-04 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 0523

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9363

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET US

SUBJ: SENATE HEARINGS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION

1. VERY PRELIMINARY REACTION FROM BOTH MOFA AND MINISTRY NATIONAL DEFENSE IS CAUTIOUSLY FAVORABLE TO OUTCOME OF SENATE HEARINGS ON ETHIOPIAN/HORN SITUATION AUG 4-6. AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF IN MOFA, BERHANE DERESSA, WHO HAD NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO READ SCHAUFLEL STATEMENT, BUT HAD SEEN EXCERPTS REPORTED FROM ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, TOLD CHARGE AUG 9 THAT HEARINGS SEEMED TO HAVE GONE WELL (HE WAS RELIEVED ZEWDE/BEGRE SELASSIE HAD NOT TESTIFIED) AND DEFENSE MINISTER AYALEW MANDEFRO MADE SIMILAR COMMENT BASED UPON VOA COVERAGE TO CHMAAG.

2. HEARINGS HAVE NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN ETHIOPIAN MEDIA WHICH NOT SURPRISING. WHETHER EPMG WILL TAKE EXCEPTION TO U.S. PRESS REPORTS TO LAUNCH FURTHER ATTACKS ON N.Y. TIMES AND WASH POST AND /OR OTHER NEWSPAPERS WILL REMAIN TO BE SEEN TO DO SO, HOWEVER, MAY REQUIRE THAT REFERENCE BE MADE PUBLICLY TO HEARINGS AND EPMG MAY CONCLUDE IT DOES NOT WISH TO DO THIS.
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